

The United States has had the honor of having Gary serve in the military and Air National Guard. Gary successfully owned and maintained shoe stores through the Philadelphia area, and is presently managing a women's shoe store in Elkins Park, PA. Gary still finds time to be a successful bowler and a family man. He is an active citizen in his community and is dedicated to the principles of his religion.

All of this, plus many other contributions, led his peers to select Sir Gary Belsky as the grand chancellor of 10,000 members of the Pennsylvania Knights of Pythias.

On September 16, the Barbarossa Lodge #133 of the Knights of Pythias will honor Gary Belsky for his service. I join the Barbarossa Lodge and all of Gary's friends in tribute to him.

**MALONEY HONORS NEIGHBORS R US**

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 1995*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the achievements of Neighbors R Us, an extraordinary community group which has won a great battle for preserving a great neighborhood.

Last year, when Toys R Us announced its intention to open a superstore on the corner of 80th and Third Avenue, it was greeted with dismay by those of us who live in the neighborhood. We feared that this store would negatively impact the residential character of the community. We feared that it would endanger access to the nursing home across the street. We feared that it would cause severe traffic problems throughout the whole neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, the difference between a good neighborhood and a great neighborhood is that when a great neighborhood is threatened, it draws together and rises to the challenge. And that is just what happened. Hundreds of residents from all walks of life gave selflessly of their time and created one extraordinary community group—Neighbors R Us.

Neighbors R Us spent countless hours gathering the information to show that Toys R Us was exploiting a local loophole in its efforts to open a store tens of thousands of square feet larger than the zoning restrictions would have allowed. But despite having justice on their side, there were many who felt that Neighbors R Us' efforts were doomed from the beginning. They were fighting the system; they were Davids battling a corporate Toys R Us Goliath.

But Neighbors R Us refused to listen to these naysayers. United, they continued to lobby the board of standards and appeals to do the right thing and preserve the community. They organized meetings; they held vigils; they wrote letters and made phone calls; in short, they gave new meaning to the words "community activism."

And they won.

Mr. Speaker, many individuals played critical roles in Neighbors R Us' well-deserved victory, so to single anyone out would be wrong. Because this was a victory that was truly shared by every member of the community. Certainly, the residents surrounding 80th Street have

much reason to celebrate. But I believe that this issue has broader implications. It is a victory for the entire community and for every community in New York because it sends a message that residents' voices deserve to be heard.

It is true that Toys R Us may appeal the board of standards and appeals decision in court. But having worked with Neighbors R Us for well over a year on this issue, I am confident that they will ultimately prevail. Because they have proven that when a community is unified, there is no limit to what it can achieve.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Neighbors R Us for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of a truly great community.

**CONGRATULATING GUAM'S ATHLETES FOR EXCELLENCE**

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 1995*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, when Guam's Special Olympics athletes compete, there is only the thrill of victory; the agony came earlier. So it is with great honor that I announce to you and the rest of our colleagues, in my home district of Guam, we have many noteworthy athletes who have thrilled us all.

In the recent Special Olympic Games held in the State of Connecticut, the people of Guam reached a new milestone. The island had more special athletes compete in this event than ever before. I now rise to pay tribute to these victorious athletes by placing their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In bowling, our Team Guam hit strikes, as Marion Molinos and David Bascon took bronzes in the unified doubles and silvers in the unified team competition. The marks improved further as Rosaline Unpingco and George Gabriel took gold in unified doubles and silver as competitors in unified team. Finally, it was Vernamarie Quinata and Bernadette Colet who worked to a fourth place finish in women's doubles. In addition, Vernamarie also fought to sixth place in women's singles while Bernadette got the gold.

On the athletic team, Kristopher San Nicolas threw for a silver in the softball throw and gained a bronze for the 100-meter race in walking. Edwin Bartolome won a bronze in the men's pentathlon. Patrick Blas was awarded the bronze in the 50-meter run and a ribbon in the shotput. Raymond Duenas walked his way to a bronze in the 15-meter walk and swam to a ribbon in the 25-meter freestyle. Melvin Muna was awarded ribbons for both the 25 and 50-meter freestyle in addition to a gold in the 25-meter backstroke. John Hammond got silver medals in the 25-meter freestyle and backstroke. James Francisco participated in the opening ceremonies but, due to a family emergency, could not compete in any athletic events.

So, to all the coaches, Marianne Cepeda, Rick Vasquez, Rich Fisher, Patty Blas, Rose Cruz, Vickie Loughran, and Troy Lizama, I commend you for a job well done. To the head of the delegation, Karen Biggs and the executive director Carole Piercy, who showed the Guam family just how much they cared, I want you to know that you are also very spe-

cial. Finally, I congratulate all of Guam's athletes who competed in the games. Although they did not all earn medals, they are all Guam's heroes.

**FRANKLIN BOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 1995*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, one of the remarkable stories of the last 19th century was the rebuilding of Johnstown, PA after the Great Flood of 1889. The Johnstown Flood destroyed the city and much has been written about this disaster. But most of these stories stop at the death and destruction caused by the raging waters; they don't talk about the rebuilding efforts that made Johnstown a bustling, growing steel community in the years after the flood.

Although it was the turbulent waters which caused the initial devastation during the flood, the fires which came afterwards completed the destruction. As the Johnstown area rebuilt over the next few years, residents realized they needed protection against the potential damage that fires could pose. In 1895, seven residents of Franklin Borough located just east of the downtown Johnstown area, decided to form a department to protect the borough and provide emergency services to the people of the area. One hundred years later, the Franklin Borough Fire Department is still going strong.

The Johnstown area has endured two major floods and severe economic downturns over the past 100 years. But the Franklin Borough Fire Department has continued to protect the residents of the area during good times and bad. From the days when seven residents founded the department, the Franklin Borough Fire Department has developed into a modern, efficient fire and rescue operation, handling emergencies from rescues to disposing of hazardous materials. The department is still the hub of Franklin Borough, and many of the activities in Franklin Borough revolve around it.

I'd like to congratulate the Franklin Borough Fire Department on its 100th anniversary. I join the people of the borough in wishing them well as they start on their second century of protecting the people of the area.

**ENVIRONMENTAL TAX REFORM ACT OF 1995**

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 1995*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the first in a series of bills to discourage pollution and resource depletion through the elimination of corporate energy and resource subsidies.

The first bill in this series is simple. It repeals 11 incentives in the corporate Tax Code to produce various polluting energy supplies and consume various nonrenewable minerals.